UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/440
S/24558
14 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Item 88 of the provisional agenda*
SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I enclose a copy of the declaration on Somalia made by European Community Foreign Ministers at their informal meeting at Brocket Hall on 12 and 13 September 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 88 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY

* A/47/150.

ANNEX

Declaration on Somalia made by the European Community Foreign Ministers at their informal meeting held on 12 and 13 September 1992

Following the visits to Mogadishu of the Troika of Foreign Ministers on 4 September 1992, and of other European Community Ministers, Ministers reviewed the situation in Somalia. The collapse of government in Somalia and the resulting tragedy for its people require the most committed response on the part of the international community.

The Ministers paid tribute to the courageous humanitarian work being carried out in Somalia by a number of non-governmental agencies in collaboration with devoted local personnel.

A first requirement now is that the level of outside aid to Somalia be commensurate with the gravity of the situation. In addition to the efforts made by individual member States, the Community has collectively made available 185,000 tonnes of food and 15 million ECU of non-food humanitarian assistance this year. The Community has recently committed additional funds to the protection of humanitarian convoys, under United Nations auspices.

The Community and its member States appeal to other members of the international community to join with them in increasing the volume of international aid to Somalia.

Priority is also attached to the protection of humanitarian convoys and the distribution of food and medicines in conditions of civil order.

The Community and its member States call on all political groupings in Somalia to contribute to this end, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. They are convinced that a cease-fire in all areas and the deployment of United Nations armed guards in adequate numbers will facilitate emergency relief work.

The Community and its member States confirmed their full support for the United Nations role in Somalia, and in particular the admirable work of the Secretary-General's representative Ambassador Sahnoun. It is through Ambassador Sahnoun's consultations that legitimate government can be re-established in Somalia.

In the view of the Community and its member States, none of the Somali factions can lay claim to speak as the legitimate authority in Somalia. They call on the factions to restore legitimate authority through a process of national reconciliation.

The Ministers invited the Commission to restore a permanent European Community presence in Somalia as a focal point for the Community's humanitarian efforts and the efforts to support long-term development in the area.

A Troika of Development Ministers is visiting Kenya and Somalia to assess further how the Community can contribute to the provision and distribution of humanitarian aid within Somalia.